

**House File 2083 - Introduced**

HOUSE FILE 2083  
BY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

(SUCCESSOR TO HSB 519)

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to the eligibility for grants under the teach  
2 Iowa scholar program.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 261.110, subsection 3, Code 2022, is  
2 amended to read as follows:

3 3. Criteria for eligibility shall be established by the  
4 commission and shall include but are not limited to the  
5 following:

6 a. The applicant was in the top ~~twenty-five~~ fifty percent  
7 academically of students exiting a teacher preparation program  
8 approved by the state board of education pursuant to section  
9 256.7, subsection 3, or a similar teacher preparation program  
10 in another state, or had earned other comparable academic  
11 credentials.

12 b. The applicant is preparing to ~~teach~~ become a teacher  
13 who provides classroom instruction in fields including but not  
14 limited to science, technology, engineering, or mathematics;  
15 English as a second language or special education instruction;  
16 or is preparing to teach in a hard-to-staff subject as  
17 identified by the department. The department shall take  
18 into account the varying regional needs in the state for  
19 teachers in these subject areas when applying the criterion  
20 of this paragraph. The department shall annually identify  
21 and designate hard-to-staff subjects for the purpose of this  
22 paragraph. The eligibility of an applicant who receives a  
23 teach Iowa scholar grant and who is preparing to teach in a  
24 hard-to-staff subject as identified by the department shall  
25 not be affected in subsequent years if the department does not  
26 continue to identify that subject as a hard-to-staff subject  
27 any of the following located in this state:

28 (1) A school district.

29 (2) A charter school.

30 (3) An area education agency.

31 (4) An accredited nonpublic school.

32 c. The applicant met all of the eligibility requirements  
33 of this section on or after January 1, 2013. A person who met  
34 the program eligibility requirements of this section prior to  
35 January 1, 2013, is ineligible for this program.

1 d. On or after July 1, 2022, the total value of grants  
2 awarded under this section each year to applicants who are  
3 preparing to become teachers who provide classroom instruction  
4 in a school district, charter school, area education agency, or  
5 an accredited nonpublic school shall be as follows:

6 (1) Fifty percent shall be awarded to applicants preparing  
7 to become teachers who provide classroom instruction in  
8 a school district, charter school, area education agency,  
9 or an accredited nonpublic school, with less than or equal  
10 to one thousand two hundred students. However, if the amount  
11 requested by applicants pursuant to subparagraph (2) is less  
12 than the amount reserved for applicants under subparagraph (2),  
13 the commission may award the difference to applicants under  
14 this subparagraph.

15 (2) Fifty percent shall be awarded to applicants preparing  
16 to become teachers who provide classroom instruction in a  
17 school district, charter school, area education agency, or an  
18 accredited nonpublic school, with greater than one thousand  
19 two hundred students. However, if the amount requested by  
20 applicants pursuant to subparagraph (1) is less than the amount  
21 reserved for applicants under subparagraph (1), the commission  
22 may award the difference to applicants under this subparagraph.

23 EXPLANATION

24 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with  
25 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

26 This bill relates to the eligibility for grants under the  
27 teach Iowa scholar program.

28 The teach Iowa scholar program, administered by the  
29 college student aid commission, provides grants to certain  
30 high-caliber, full-time teachers in Iowa in amounts not to  
31 exceed \$4,000 annually or \$20,000 over five years. Under  
32 current law, the eligibility criteria established by the  
33 commission for grants under the program include that the  
34 applicant was in the top 25 percent academically of students  
35 exiting a teacher preparation program and the applicant is

1 preparing to teach in certain specified fields. The bill  
2 modifies these provisions to provide that the applicant was in  
3 the top 50 percent academically of students exiting a teacher  
4 preparation program and the applicant is preparing to become  
5 a teacher who provides classroom instruction in a school  
6 district, charter school, area education agency, or accredited  
7 nonpublic school located in the state.

8 The bill provides that on or after July 1, 2022, the total  
9 value of grants awarded under the program to applicants who are  
10 preparing to become teachers who provide classroom instruction  
11 in a school district, charter school, area education agency,  
12 or an accredited nonpublic school shall be equally divided  
13 between applicants preparing to become teachers who provide  
14 classroom instruction in a school district, charter school,  
15 area education agency, or an accredited nonpublic school with  
16 less than or equal to 1,200 students and applicants preparing  
17 to become teachers who provide classroom instruction in a  
18 school district, charter school, area education agency, or an  
19 accredited nonpublic school with greater than 1,200 students.  
20 The bill authorizes the commission to award different amounts  
21 to each group of applicants if the amount requested by  
22 applicants of either group is less than the amount reserved for  
23 that group.